

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ROME 06894 132327Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
ACDA-12 TRSE-00 /078 W
-----000815 142006Z /47

R 131658Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2087
USMISSION USUNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 6894

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM MNUC NATO US IT
SUBJ: MOD RUFFINI REACTION TO ERW DECISION

1. IN APRIL 12 CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF, NEW DEPUTY CHIEF OF MOD CABINET GIUSEPPE D'AMBROSIO REFERRED TO ERW QUESTION IN TERMS OF ITS IMPACT ON MINISTER. MINISTER RUFFINI, HE SAID, HAD REACTED WITH "SHOCK, SURPRISE AND DISAPPOINTMENT" TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S STATEMENT POSTPONING DECISION ON PRODUCTION OF THE ERW. RUFFINI WAS PARTICULARLY UNHAPPY AT HAVING EXPENDED CONSIDERABLE EFFORT WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF GOVERNMENT TO OBTAIN AGREEMENT ON A MORE OR LESS FORTHCOMING ITALIAN POSITION WHICH HE AND CHIEF OF STAFF CAVALERA INTENDED TO CONVEY AT NEXT APPROPRIATE MEETING. THE MINISTRY HAD "FROM THE BEGINNING" EXPRESSED ITS FAVORABLE MILITARY VIEW TO THE POLITICAL ARM OF THE GOVERNMENT. RUFFINI HAD WORKED TO GET A POLITICAL VIEW EXPRESSED THAT AT THE LEAST WOULD NOT ADD TO THE OBSTACLES RAISED ELSEWHERE. NOW, HE FELT THAT HE HAD HAD THE RUG PULLED OUT FROM UNDER HIM AND WAS LEFT WITH A BRUTA FIGURA.

2. COMMENT: D'AMBROSIO IS A LONG TIME EMBASSY CONTACT, VERY PRO-U.S. AND A STRONG SUPPORTER OF THE ALLIANCE AS AN INSTRUMENT OF THE PROJECTION OF U.S. POWER. (AS A
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ROME 06894 132327Z

SELF-DESCRIBED PRAGMATIST HE SEES NATO AS NOT MUCH MORE THAN THAT.) HIS INTERPRETATION OF THE EAST-WEST CONFRONTATION IS OF A NO-QUARTER CONFLICT REQUIRING THAT THE U.S. TAKE FIRM AND UNWAVING POSITIONS IN ITS DEALING WITH THE SOVIET UNION. THE ERW DECISION IN HIS VIEW WAS A SERIOUS ERROR, THE REPERCUSSION OF WHICH WILL LONG BE FELT IN ENCOURAGING THE USSR TO BELIEVE THAT THE U.S. LACKS THE

WILL TO STAY THE COURSE. TO SOME EXTEND HIS REPORT OF
RUFFINI'S REACTION MAY BE DRAMATIZED BY THE DEPTH OF HIS
OWN FRUSTRATION. BUT WE HAVE LITTLE DOUBT THAT THE GENERAL
TENOR OF RUFFINI'S REACTION WAS AS D'AMBROSIO DESCRIBED IT.
GARDNER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRODUCTION, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, POLITICAL LEADERS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, NUCLEAR WEAPONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ROME06894
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780161-0488
Format: TEL
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780459/aaaabxrq.tel
Line Count: 67
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f65ca1b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2973347
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MOD RUFFINI REACTION TO ERW DECISION
TAGS: PARM, MNUC, PGOV, US, IT, NATO
To: STATE USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f65ca1b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014